

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 IO-12 DPW-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /116 W
----- 004425

R 081145 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1196

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CJCS

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PHNOM PENH 4405

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: US AIR OPERATIONS IN CAMBODIA

REF: PHNOM PENH 4378

1. WE ARE PROVIDING THE FOLLOWING ANSWERS ORALLY
TO FURTHER QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY NEW YORK TIMES
CORRESPONDENT SCHANBERG.

2. QUESTION: DOES THE EMBASSY PANEL SCREEN F-111
AS WELL AS B-52 STRIKES?

ANSWER: YES IN SOME CASES.

QUESTION: ARE THEY ALSO STRATEGIC?

ANSWER: NO.

3. QUESTION: DOES AN ASSISTANT ATTACHE, OR ANY
EMBASSY EMPLOYEE, STILL FLY ABOARD THE ABCCC IN
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CONVOY SITUATIONS, OR IN ANY OTHER SITUATION?

ANSWER: NO, NOT AT PRESENT.

4. QUESTION: DO US PERSONNEL OPERATE IN ANY CAPACITY
AT ANY TIME, FORMALLY OR
INFORMALLY, AT THE KHMER DASC
THAT HAD REPLACED THE EMBASSY COORDINATION CENTER?

ANSWER: NO.

QUESTION: DO US PERSONNEL VISIT THE DASC?

ANSWER: YES, JUST AS US PERSONNEL VISIT OTHER
OPERATIONAL ELEMENTS OF THE FANK.

5. COMMENT: BOTH SCHANBERG FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES AND
NEELD FOR ASSOCIATED PRESS HAVE BEEN ASKED BY THEIR HOME
OFFICES TO DO DETAILED PIECES ON US AIR OPERATIONS. IT
IS INTERESTING THAT BOTH TELL US THAT DESPITE WIDE RANGING
INTERVIEWS WITH DISPLACED PERSONS (APPARENTLY SEVERAL
DOZEN IN SCHANBERG' S CASE, AND AT LEAST 150 IN NEELD' S
CASE), THEY HAVE SO FAR FOUND NO RPT NO EVIDENCE OF
CIVILIAN CASUALTIES AS RESULT OF B-52 STRIKES. BOTH SAY
THAT THEY HAVE TALKED TO QTE ONE OR TWO PEOPLE UNQTE WHO
CLAIM TO HAVE BEEN HURT IN TACAIR STRIKES. THEY TELL US
THEIR PRESENT CONCLUSION HAS TO BE THAT THE CIVILIAN
CASUALTIES ARE NOT RPT NOT WIDESPREAD AS RESULT OF
US AIR OPERATIONS. THEY ARE CONTINUING THEIR
INQUIRIES.
SWANK

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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